

Appl. No.: 09/837,686  
Amdt. dated September 8, 2003  
Reply to Office action of July 8, 2003

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 503  
B1
1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transferring commands, comprising:  
a scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus; and  
a keyboard connected to the scanner via the scanner's first port; and  
control logic associated with the communication bus, the control logic configured to control the passage of data over the communication bus.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
a computer coupled-connected to the scanner via the scanner's second  
port, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.
4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the control logic is configured to detect the presence of commands from the keyboard.
5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the control logic routes commands from the keyboard to the computer.
6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising keyboard enable logic associated with the control logic.

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7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the keyboard enable logic instructs the control logic to route commands from the keyboard to a keyboard/scanner interface.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a power detector coupled to the communication bus, the power detector configured to detect a power signal from the a computer.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising power supply logic configured to supply power to the keyboard if the power detector fails to detect the power signal from the computer.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the keyboard/scanner interface is configured to receive keyboard commands from the control logic and forward the keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a network interface module coupled to the keyboard/scanner interface, the network interface module configured to connect the scanner to an external network.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a document scanned by the scanner is electronically mailed over the external network.

15. (Currently amended) A method for communicating commands from a keyboard to a scanner, the method comprising the steps of:

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connecting a scanner to a computer over a communication bus in the scanner; and

connecting a keyboard to the scanner via the communication bus, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising ~~the step of detecting whether a power signal is being transmitted from the computer to the scanner.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising ~~the step of supplying power to the keyboard from the scanner if the power signal from the computer is not detected in the detecting step.~~

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising ~~the step of detecting, within the scanner, the presence of commands from the keyboard.~~

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising ~~the step of routing commands from the keyboard to the computer.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising ~~the step of routing commands from the keyboard to the scanner.~~


21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving keyboard commands from a scanner/keyboard interface associated with the communication bus; and  
forwarding the keyboard commands to a processor of the scanner.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

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23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

 24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising ~~the steps~~ of:  
coupling a network interface module to the keyboard/scanner interface;  
and  
connecting the scanner to an external network.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising ~~the step~~ of electronically mailing a document scanned by the scanner over the external network.

26. (New) A scanner, comprising:  
a scanner input element to scan a document;  
control logic coupled to the scanner input element;  
a first connection coupled to the control logic to which a user-activated input device can be connected; and  
a second connection coupled to the control logic to which a computer can be connected;  
wherein the control logic selectively permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the scanner to control the scanner or permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the computer to control the computer.

27. (New) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising an enable control coupled to the control logic to permit a user to select the input device to be operatively connected to the scanner or the computer.

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28. (New) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device comprises a keyboard.

29. (New) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device can receive power from the scanner or from the computer and the scanner further comprises a power detector coupled to the control logic, wherein the power detector detects whether the computer is providing power to the input device.

30. (New) The scanner of claim 29 power detector causes the power to be supplied from the scanner to the input device if the computer is not providing power to the input device.

31. (New) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising a display coupled to the control logic and a user can cause information to be shown on the display via operation of the input device connected to the scanner.